

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of :  
Kazuo HIRAOKA et al. :  
Serial No. NEW : **Attn: APPLICATION BRANCH**  
Filed September 15, 2003 : Attorney Docket No. 2003-1321  
  
WELDING METHOD AND  
WELDED JOINT STRUCTURE :  
(Rule 1.53(b) Continuation  
of Serial No. 10/167,593,  
Filed June 13, 2002) : THE COMMISSIONER IS AUTHORIZED  
TO CHARGE ANY DEFICIENCY IN THE  
FEES FOR THIS PAPER TO DEPOSIT  
ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Kindly amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows: